Sir, could we please revise the fundamentals?—

A new visitor ~~had~~ could spend only three days in Bombay; he attended both the morning and evening sessions. At the last session, he confessed that he had taken in so much that ~~he~~ even ^ of these sessions, with the result that there was a great deal of cluttering up and a certain amount of confusion in his mind. He therefore earnestly requested Shri Maharaj to revise the fundamentals so that he could retain them more easily in his mind.

Shri Maharaj laughed and asked him if there was any confusion in his mind about his being a male human being, about being the son of his parents, about his profession! Why should there be any confusion about his true nature?!

"Anyway" said Shri Maharaj, "what ~~are~~ have you come to me for? What you want is to reach a an acceptable understanding of yourself — which you have been conditioned to regard as a separate individual with complete control over his actions — and your relationship with the world in which you ~~to~~ live: you on the one hand and the world on the other."

"Now what you think you are is nothing but the 'material' which was conceived in your mother's womb — which grew into the shape of a ~~body~~ baby, with bones, flesh, blood etc. without any help from 'you'. Indeed, you were not even consulted about your birth. A ~~form~~ human form was created, which grew from ~~an baby~~ a baby to an infant ~~to~~ and at a certain time, perhaps 12 to 18 months after the birth of the human baby, that 'you' were born, that 'you' have ~~took~~ a name and a form. Thereafter 'you' began to ~~consider~~ ~~yourself~~ ~~yourself~~ ~~to be~~ as ~~an~~ a ~~sep~~ separate individual with an independent ~~of~~ existence apart from the rest of the world. Now consider: (i) ~~if~~ did your parents specifically ~~and deliberately~~ ~~and no one else~~ created 'you'? (ii) ~~did~~ did your parents know, when the moment conception took place (iii) did 'you' specifically and deliberately select a particular couple as your parents? (iv) did you choose to get 'born'?"

"From the answers to these questions,

it should be clear that a form in the shape of a human being got created spontaneously without any concurrence or action on your part which you subsequently accepted as yourself. Therefore, 'you', as such, do not exist either as a 'fact' or as an entity. This is the first fundamental."

"Then, the question is what are we – all of us? Each one of us, as a phenomenon, is merely an appearance in the consciousness of those who perceive us, – and, therefore, something temporal, finite and perceptible to the senses, whereas what we ARE, what we have always been and what we shall always BE – without name and form – is noumenon: timeless, spaceless, imperceptible BEING."

"However thoroughly you may think you have 'understood' this, you will find it almost impossible to disassociate yourself from the identification with your name and form because this can happen only when what you have been thinking of as a separate entity has been totally annihilated. This is the second fundamental – the power of Maya. What is merely a phenomenon, without any independent existence of its own, is considered to be real and efforts are made by this phenomenon to 'become' something – a shadow chasing its substance, whereas we have all along been the substance and never the shadow in bondage wanting liberation. How very amusing but then that is Maya!

"Now the third fundamental: would you have been able to conceive any aspect of the manifested world if there was no space-time. If no phenomena were extended in space and measured in duration, could you not have conceived – let alone perceived – anything of the apparent universe. Therefore, all phenomena are merely appearances conceived and perceived in consciousness through the process of the concept of duality. Even the idea of the wholeness of the Absolute can itself only be a concept in consciousness! When consciousness merges in the Absolute, who or what can there be to want to know anything?!"

" And now the final fundamental : If the what I have said so far is clearly understood, it should be possible to apperceive one's true state : IT IS THAT BEFORE 'YOU' WERE "BORN". Go back to this primal state which before the consciousness spontaneously arose and gave you the sense of PRESENCE. It is this ~~PRESENCE~~ conscious presence that you are — so long as the body exists, and when the ~~body~~ life span of the body is over, this conscious presence ~~but~~ merges into your original state where there is no consciousness of being present. This presence is time-bound. ~~There~~ No one is born, no one is dead. There is merely the beginning, the duration and the end of an event objectivised in space-time. As a phenomenon, there ~~is~~ is no entity that is bound and as noumenon, there ~~is~~ can be no entity that needs to be liberated. ~~Apprehend this~~ This is what is to be apperceived and the dream-world of phenomena is what is to be merely witnessed.